

Springs for health purposes, met at the residence of Mr. Coakley, Lower Waiau, on Thursday last, and presented their former pastor with an address and purse of sovereigns. General regret was expressed at the cause of his severance from them, with hopes that complete rest and a long voyage would assist in a restoration to health. Father Treacey will leave in a few days for the North Island en route for England.

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent)

February 26.

A meeting of members of the St. Patrick's Day Sports Association was held in the Mechanics' Hall last evening. The ground committee reported that the Caledonian Society asked £10 for rent of ground (£5 to be given to the Patriotic Fund if the directors approved), and the South Canterbury Athletic Club offered their ground free of cost. The committee recommended that the latter offer be accepted. The chairman explained that the Association would make nothing out of the sports, as all profit went to the Patriotic Fund, and said that the Amateur Athletic Club had met them in a very generous spirit. The programme was then submitted, and after slight amendment was adopted. It provides for £56 being given in prizes for cycling, running (both amateur and professional), dancing, music, and fire brigade events. The programme is so arranged that it can be comfortably got through during an afternoon. Judges were appointed as follows:—Cycling, Messrs. Lawson, Whelan, Bourn, and Shepherd; amateur running, Messrs. Turnbull and Knubley; professional, do., Messrs. Hale, Priest, Palliser, Cameron, Whelan, Jones, Mullin, and Grandi; stewards, Messrs. O'Rourke, Dennehy, and Mullin; general sports, Messrs. Hale, Grandi, Geaney, Reilly, Chute, Shea, and McAteer; dancing and music (Scotch), Messrs. Kelly, Martin, Sinclair, and Gunn; Irish, do., Messrs. Howley, McCarthy, and Connell; wrestling, Messrs. Evans, Pringle, Geaney, Hole, Reilly, Grandi, and Shepherd; timekeepers, Messrs. Lindsay, Gunn, and Mullin; competitors' stewards, Messrs. Raymond, Dennehy, and McKenna; marksman, Mr. F. Cameron; amateur handicapper, Mr. C. A. Jefferson; referee, the President (Mr. D. Mahoney). It was unanimously resolved that a grand concert be held on the evening of the sports, the mover (Mr. Hole) referring to the great success previous concerts had been. The secretary of the League of Wheelmen wrote, granting a permit to hold bicycle races on the date applied for. A committee was appointed to make any necessary improvements to the track. The Garrison Band generously proffered their services free. Fifty-one new members were elected. A working bee was arranged to put the track in order, and voluntary offers were sufficient to do the work. Some objection was made at holding the annual concert and social in the Assembly Room, but when it was explained that no concession would be made from the ordinary charge of hiring the Theatre, and the Assembly rooms being kindly offered by Mr. Bowker free of cost, the action of the committee was endorsed.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Waiwera with the second New Zealand Contingent on board arrived at Capetown last week.

THE Slattery pair reached Christchurch on Tuesday last, and may be expected further South very soon.

IT is probable that the Rough Riders Contingent will get away from the Colony about March 13 or 14. Port Chalmers will be the point of departure.

THE Wellington Fabian Dramatic Club will produce 'The Wearing of the Green' in Masterton on St. Patrick's night in aid of the funds of the local Catholic school.

AMONG the successful candidates at the Trinity College (practical) musical examination we notice the name of Master Edward J. Brownie, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, Lyttelton. The youthful violinist secured 85 marks in junior honours.

AMONG the successful candidates at the recent Junior Civil Service examination (writes our Timaru correspondent) were Richard Madden and John O'Connor, pupils of the Marist Brothers' School, Timaru. R. Madden, who is a son of Constable Madden, was the winner of one of the two scholarships at St. Patrick's College, completed for last December.

AT their last meeting the members of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society debated the question, 'Are we over-educating our girls?' Mr. J. Quinlan took the affirmative, and Mr. P. Harahan the negative. Both of these made good speeches, and adduced some strong arguments in favour of their respective sides. Other members also contributed to the debate, which resulted, on a vote being taken, in favour of the negative side.

TWELVE candidates were presented from St. Mary's School, Nelson (says the *Colonist*), at the recent theory examination (music), in connection with Trinity College, London, and the following are the results:—Senior pass: Ellen B. Eden, 79; Bridget Kelly, 72. Intermediate pass: Hedelevig Gibbs, 100; Cecilia Arnold, 67; Maggie Kelly, 67. Junior pass: Eva Gapper, 95; May Egan, 93; Constance Seymour, 93; Monica Armstrong, 91; Hannah Leighton, 87; Catherine Ward, 66; Evelyn Kelly, 65.

THE whole of the pupils sent up from the Convent of Mercy, Greymouth, to the Trinity College musical examinations (theoretical) were successful in passing. In senior honours Mary Kennedy got 88 marks, the highest ever obtained in Greymouth. In the Civil Service examination the only pupil presented by the Convent

(Mary E. Noonan) was successful. The following are the results of the musical examinations:—Senior honours: Mary Kennedy 88, Maude Bradshaw 85, Lizzie Taylor 82, Kate McLean 79. Senior pass: Margaret O'Meara 87, Annie McDonald 63. Intermediate honours: Florence Foot 92, Nellie McDonnell 87. Intermediate pass: Florence Foot 91. Junior pass: Mary Anne Heaphy 96, Alice Hannan 93, Julia Mahony 85, Annie Duffy 84.

SOME interesting financial returns were quoted by the manager of the Union Steam Ship Company (says the *Post*) in the statement of the employers' case at the Conciliation Board. Taking returns for the 12 months made up to the 30th September last, his company had paid in Wellington £62,990 for wages and labour, £17,820 going for wharf labour, and just upon £10,000 for men in the workshops. For coal labour the company had, during the same period, paid £1737 at Dunedin, £1682 at Auckland, £4569 at Lyttelton, and £9368 at Wellington. For the working of general cargo at these ports during the year the company had paid £10,277 at Auckland, £8367 at Dunedin, £7805 at Lyttelton, and £8452 at Wellington.

The *Normanby Star* of February 20 records the success of the three following young ladies at the musical examinations held in October last in connection with Trinity College. Miss Bessie Flynn passed most successfully the Senior Division (singing), and took very high pass and honours (theory). This young lady also received a high certificate for her Royal Academy exam. in the singing higher division, which was held in November last. Misses Julia and Mary Flynn were the only pupils from the Wanganui Convent who gained 100 per cent. for theory, the former securing honours. Julia secured a very high pass for Intermediate (practical) and Mary took pass and honours, Junior (practical). Each of the young ladies are Convent pupils, the first-named being a pupil of St. Mary's Convent, Wellington, and the two last of the Sacred Heart Convent, Wanganui. They are sisters, and Hawera girls.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

AFTER the relief of Kimberley the Boer force, under Commandant Cronje, retreated in the direction of Bloemfontein, about 90 miles distant. Cronje had covered about half the distance when, in consequence of being hard-pressed by the British forces, he was compelled to лагер at Koodoosrand, a small village about 40 miles in a straight line from the Free State capital. Here the enemy was completely surrounded by the British force, and as a result terrible fighting took place from the early part of last week until last Monday. The Boer losses were said to be tremendous, while the British losses were very heavy.

The Boers were confined on Friday and Saturday on a spot in the river bed two miles long, 150ft wide, and 50ft deep. General Chernaide's brigade held the upper end of the ditch, Colonel Smith-Dorrien's force occupied the lower end. High banks and numerous dongas afforded the enemy some shelter. Their food supplies were abundant, but their ammunition was running short.

It was confidently expected in this Colony that any moment might bring the report of Cronje's capitulation. The news came early yesterday morning in a message from the Agent-General to the Premier, dated London, midnight, February 27, and was as follows:—Lord Roberts has telegraphed that General Cronje and all his force capitulated unconditionally at daylight to-day. They are now prisoners in Lord Roberts's camp. This is the anniversary of Majuba Hill.

WEDDING BELLS.

ENNIS—NORTH.

A pretty wedding took place on Wednesday morning at St. Mary of the Angels' Church (writes our Wellington correspondent), when Mr. M. J. Ennis (organist at St. Joseph's Church) was married to Miss M. J. North, second daughter of Mr. T. North, of this city. The ceremony was performed by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy. The bride was attired in a white muslin dress and wore a picture hat to match. She was attended by Miss C. Sullivan, and Mr. J. Brennan acted as best man. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a gold brooch set with amethyst, pearls, and rubies, and to the bridesmaid a gold bell brooch with rubies and pearls. The wedding breakfast at 'Coorang House,' Mrs. Sullivan's residence, was attended by the priests of the parish and a few intimate friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ennis. The array of handsome and serviceable presents showed the high esteem in which the happy couple are held. The 'Wedding March' at the church was played by Mr. D. Kenny. The honeymoon is being spent in the North.

WARD—DUNNE.

A wedding which attracted considerable attention took place at St. John's Catholic Church, Cromwell, on Wednesday of last week, the contracting parties being Mr. Gilbert J. Ward, of Dunalister, Wyndham, and Miss Eliza M. Dunne, daughter of the late Mr. Francis Dunne, of Wellington. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Hunt in the presence of a large number of friends. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. P. J. Dunne, wore a charming costume of cream surah silk, trimmed with Limerick lace and chiffon. Miss Bella Dunne was bridesmaid, and Mr. J. J. Connor best man. After the ceremony the guests were entertained at the residence of the bride's brother. In the evening a large number of friends were also entertained by Mr. and Miss Dunne. The happy couple left by coach for Dunedin accompanied by the good wishes of their friends.